Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) has been launched w.e.f., 1.4.99 for a period of 5 years. A chain of textile testing laboratories have been set up to help industry in assessing the quality of textiles. For import of capital goods, the Export Promotion of Capital Goods (EPCG) scheme has been simplified. Import of cotton is also under OGL to help industry to import requisite quality of raw cotton.

Representation for non-closure of Amarsinh Ji Mills in Gujarat

449. SHRI LALITBHAI MEHTA:
SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any representation has been made not to allow Amarsinh Ji Mills at Wankarner, Gujarat to close down;

(b) if so, when;

(c) what steps Government have taken to see that none of the departments of the mill is closed and workers of the mill retrenched; and

(d) whether it is a fact that under the pretext of the notice of Central Pollution Control Board the management of Kores India Limited is misleading the workers and the general public that the Government are forcing them to close down the unit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (d) Ministry of Textiles has not received any representation requesting not to allow Amarsinh Ji Mills at Wankarner, Gujarat to close down. However, the Mill has informed the O/o Textile Commissioner, Mumbai, that as per the directives of the Central Pollution Control Board and the Gujarat Pollution Control Board, the mill has closed down the process house and its related departments from 22.6.2000. Ministry of Textiles has also not received any information that under the pretext of the notice of Central Pollution Control Board the management of Kores India Limited is misleading the workers and the general public that the Government are forcing them to close down the unit.

Clearance for Selling NTC Land

450. SHRI C.O. POULOSE:
SHRI SATISH PRADHAN:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the NTC Mills of Mumbai have received clearance from the Government of Maharashtra for selling their land;

(b) if so, what are the plans and the area of land available for the sale;

(c) the conditions put up by the Government of Maharashtra;

(d) whether there is any proposal of revival; and

(e) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (c) Government of Mahrashtra have recently lifted the ban on operation of Regulation 58 of Development Control Regulation in respect of NTC mills in Greater Mumbai. With the lifting of the ban NTC can carryout development of its land in accordance with the prevailing regulations which stipulate that approximately 1/3rd of the land is to be surrendered to Mumbai Municipal Corporation, 1/3rd to MHADA and only 1/3rd would be available to the owner for development.

(b), (d) and (e) On the basis of a unit-wise viability approach, Government is considering a revised turn around plan for the viable subsidiaries of NTC alongwith the viable mills under them keeping in view the BIFR norms of net worth turning positive within the stipulated period. The interest of the workers will be kept in view in the revival plan.

The total surplus area available for sale in NTC mills in the State of Maharashtra is about 671.66 crores.

Scheme to Encourage Handloom Industry

†451. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are formulating any scheme to encourage handloom industry in the country;

(b) if so, the name of the above scheme;

(c) whether the suggestions of the people working in handloom industry have also been received and included in the scheme while formulating it; and

(d) if so, what are these suggestions and by when an announcement would be made to implement the said scheme?

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†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.